

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 838

By Beck

A RESOLUTION to honor David Poile as the winningest general manager in the history of the National Hockey League.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly take great pleasure in recognizing one of the most successful and influential executives in the history of professional sports, namely David Poile, general manager of the Nashville Predators since the team's inception; and

WHEREAS, during the 2017-2018 season, David Poile became the winningest general manager in National Hockey League (NHL) history, setting the record during his thirty-sixth campaign as a general manager and his twentieth with the Predators; and

WHEREAS, he also distinguished himself as the longest-tenured general manager in the NHL with more than 2,700 games at the helm; and

WHEREAS, David Poile is the only NHL general manager to lead two different clubs for 1,000 games and 500 victories, and his teams have made twenty-four playoff appearances; and

WHEREAS, he was the only person ever nominated four times for the NHL General Manager of the Year honor and the only three-time finalist before finally claiming this prestigious award in 2017 while leading the Predators to the Stanley Cup Final; and

WHEREAS, the assertive plan implemented by Mr. Poile from the franchise's inception has helped the Predators earn a reputation as one of the most stable, well-built teams in the NHL; and

WHEREAS, while he uses effective drafting and development of home-grown players as the foundation for the Nashville Predators, Mr. Poile has altered his blueprint for success to welcome high-octane offensive players to the organization in recent seasons; and

WHEREAS, last year, the synthesis of these two philosophies resulted in a historic playoff run for the Nashville Predators, 2016-2017 Western Conference Champions and Stanley Cup finalists; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Poile's hockey acumen and great influence in the league are evidenced by his membership on the Hockey Hall of Fame Selection Committee and the NHL Competition Committee; and

WHEREAS, he served astutely as general manager of the United States Olympic Men's Hockey Team for the 2014 Winter Games in Sochi and as associate general manager for the 2010 United States Olympic Men's Hockey Team; and

WHEREAS, David Poile has been honored three times (1983, 1984, and 2007) as *The Sporting News* Executive of the Year, an award voted upon by his peers; he was named 2006 CEO of the Year by *Business TN* and 1991 Man of the Year by *Inside Hockey* for his leadership in the NHL's adoption of instant replay; and

WHEREAS, he is the 2001 recipient of the Lester Patrick Award in recognition of contributions to hockey in the United States; this award was also conferred upon his father, the late Bud Poile, a member of the Hockey Hall of Fame (1990) who served as general manager of two NHL expansion franchises: Philadelphia (1967) and Vancouver (1970); and

WHEREAS, after working for the Atlanta (now Calgary) Flames expansion franchise for ten years, David Poile assumed the reins of leadership in 1982 as general manager of the Washington Capitals, a team that had never made the playoffs; and

WHEREAS, during his fifteen years as general manager of the team, the Capitals advanced to the postseason fourteen times, including the 1998 Stanley Cup Final, recorded 594 victories, and ranked among the NHL's top-five teams during that span; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Northeastern University in Boston, Mr. Poile was the school's hockey team captain, leading scorer, and most valuable player for two years and has since been inducted into the its Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, in June 2014, he received an honorary doctorate degree from American Sentinel University; and

WHEREAS, his many professional accomplishments aside, David Poile is most grateful for the love, respect, and companionship he shares with his wife, Elizabeth; children, Brian and Lauren; and grandchildren, Ellie, Charlotte, and Wyatt; and

WHEREAS, one of the most respected, admired, and influential people in the NHL, David Poile has attained the pinnacle of his profession, and he should be recognized on this special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor David Poile as the winningest and longest-tenured general manager in the history of the National Hockey League, congratulate him upon being named 2017 NHL General Manager of the Year, salute his excellent track record as the leader and architect of the Nashville Predators, and extend to him our best wishes for much continued success in all future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.